

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for comparing free time for members of a chat, comprising:

storing individual calendars corresponding to each member of the chat and at least one person who is not a member of the chat;

initiating a free time comparison in response to an actuation of a selection mechanism via a chat interface, the chat interface comprising a chat area for displaying a dialog between the members of the chat, wherein initiating a free time comparison further comprises displaying a selection window including a plurality of selection mechanisms corresponding to each member of the chat and the at least one person who is not a member of the chat, wherein the selection mechanisms corresponding to each member of the chat are selected automatically by default, and wherein the selection mechanisms corresponding to each of the at least one person who is not a member of the chat are not selected by default, but can be manually selected to be included in the free time comparison;

combining the individual calendars corresponding to each member of the chat and the at least one person who is not a member of the chat into a free time summary calendar, wherein the free time summary calendar indicates at least one of free time periods that are simultaneously available to all of the members of the chat and the at least one person who is not a member of the chat and conflict time periods during which at least two chat members simultaneously have an event scheduled; and

enlarging the chat interface and displaying the free time summary calendar

adjacent to the chat area of the chat interface.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the free time summary calendar indicates free time periods and conflict time periods in a format selected from the group consisting of a day view format, week view format, and month view format.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the day view format and the week view format indicate free time periods and conflict time periods during a predetermined time span.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the day view format and the week view format indicate free time periods that are simultaneously available to all of the members of the chat.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the month view indicates free days during which there is at least one simultaneously available free time period for all of the members of the chat, and conflict days during which there are no simultaneously available free time periods for all of the members of the chat.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

switching between the day view format, week view format, and month view format.

Claims 8-23 (Currently Amended).